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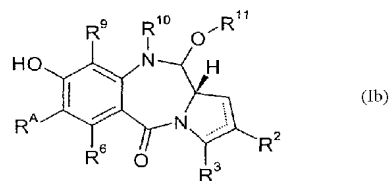
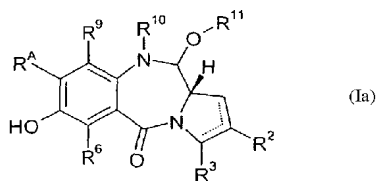
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(54) Title: PYRROLOBENZODIAZEPINES AS KEY INTERMEDIATES IN THE SYNTHESIS OF DIMERIC CYTOTOXIC PYRROLOBENZODIAZEPINES



(57) Abstract: Compounds and a method of synthesis of compounds of formula (Ia) or (Ib): and salts, solvates, and chemically protected forms thereof, wherein the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3; R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from -H, =O, =CH<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO<sub>2</sub>-R, CO<sub>2</sub>R and COR; R<sup>10</sup> is a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group; and R<sup>11</sup> is an oxygen protecting group.